



“Operation Meltdown”



MEDIA FACT SHEET

- Speakers at today’s Press Conference:
San Jose Police Chief Robert L. Davis
Santa Clara Police Chief Stephen D. Lodge
- Copper thieves cost building owners and taxpayers millions of dollars each year. Copper is sold at recycling centers for pennies on the dollar.
- Copper thieves have died from electrocution when stripping copper from buildings.
- Approximately one year ago, San Jose and Santa Clara Police Departments joined resources to combat this statewide problem.
- A store front recycling business was opened in the City of Santa Clara called “Jose Clara Co-op”. This business was operated by undercover police officers.
- This was a collaborative effort by San Jose Police, Santa Clara Police, and Santa Clara County District Attorney’s Office.
- 14 tons (28,000 lbs) of copper was purchased since April 2007, approximate street value of \$96,000
- Copper came from a number of sources:
 1. Commercial buildings scheduled for demolition or renovation
 2. Theft from retail businesses, high-tech manufacturing locations
 3. Construction sites and utility yards
- 40 stolen vehicles were purchased. The vehicles include a BMW, Porsche Carrera, Nissan 350Z, Audi, Toyota MR2, SUV’s, sedans, motorcycles and a new Ford Edge SUV. (25 different suspects)

- 35 narcotic purchases were made. The narcotics include methamphetamine, marijuana, Ecstasy, and Vicodin. (14 different suspects)
- 74 Firearms were purchased. The weapons include 21 assault weapons banned in California, 4 firearms reported stolen, 2 fully automatic weapons, 2 sawed off shotguns and 8 firearms with damaged or removed serial numbers.
- 7 IED's (Improvised Explosive Device) were purchased. Several of the bombs were designed to detonate by means of cell phone transmission.
- 2 additional IED's were recovered in October 2007 at suspects house in Fremont.
- Over 67 miscellaneous items were purchased. These items include stolen California driver's licenses, identity documents, construction tools, bikes, checks, laptops, jewelry, office equipment and clothing.
- Over 273 suspects were investigated.
- 68 suspects were arrested in 2007 prior to "arrest day".
- Over 140 arrest warrants were issued for a variety of crimes. These crimes included possession of stolen property, sales of narcotics, sales of stolen vehicles, sales of stolen / illegal weapons and sales of explosives.
- Many of the suspects were identified as gang members.
- 92% of the suspects had prior criminal records.
- This operation expanded to Alameda and Contra Costa counties. A firearms investigation reached Carson City, Nevada and is being investigated by ATF and FBI.
- On 01/22/08, over 150 officers from San Jose and Santa Clara Police Department attempted to serve over 140 arrest warrants and executed 8 search warrants. One additional search warrant was executed in Nevada by the F.B.I.
- 74 arrest warrants were successfully served. 11 additional people were arrested for unrelated on-view charges. The remainder of the wanted suspects will continue to be sought.
- An additional 6 guns, 2 stolen vehicles, and a variety of narcotics were recovered